



BOROUGH OF WIDNES

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR

1937

BOROUGH OF WIDNES

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
1937

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report, which deals with the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Administration of the Borough of Widnes for the year 1937. In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, the report will be an "ordinary report," and is therefore but a brief summary of the Health and Sanitation of the district.

The Vital Statistics were better than those for 1936. The general death rate was 11.9 as compared with a rate of 12.9 for 1936. The maternal mortality rate and the death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were below the average rate for the past five years. The Infant Mortality rate was, however, comparatively high, being 92 as compared with 89 for the year 1936, and an average of 70 for the five year period 1932-1936. The increase in this rate was entirely attributed to an increase in the number of premature births.

The number of houses built by private enterprise was 412 as compared with 462 during 1936. The provision of such a large number of houses has reduced the overcrowding which was produced by the occupation of dwellings by two families. The overcrowding which now exists is due to the occupation of small houses by large families. There are no houses locally which can accommodate these families, and it will be necessary for the Local Authority to build 400 houses to abate overcrowding. During the year 1936, 24 houses were built on the Lacey Street and Lugsdale Road sites, and during 1937 the remaining 132 houses were completed. A contract for the building of 100 larger type houses on the Lowerhouse Lane site was entered into during the year.

Plans for the proposed new Health Department and Central Clinic were approved by the respective Government Departments, and a tender was accepted. The building will be completed during the year 1938.

In presenting this report, I desire to thank the whole of the staff for their hearty co-operation.

I wish, also, to acknowledge my appreciation of the cordial support always afforded to me by members of the Health Committee and the Council.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALBERT JONES,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Borough in acres	...	...	...	...	6,178
Population at Census, 1931	...	...	...	...	40,619
,, Estimated 1937	...	...	...	...	43,140
Density of Population (<i>i.e.</i> , No. of persons per acre)	...				6.8
No. of Inhabited Houses (1931 Census)	...	...			8,641
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£204,888
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	...	...	...	...	£692

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Number of Births: Males 432, Females 434	...	...	866
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the Population	...	...	20.0
Number of Deaths: Males 284, Females 231	...	...	515
Death-rate per 1,000 of the Population	...	...	11.9
Excess of Births over Deaths	...	...	351
Number of Deaths of Infants (under the age of one year)	...		80
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births	...	...	92
Deaths from Influenza	...	...	18
Death-rate from Influenza per 1,000 of the Population	...		0.41
Death-rate from Cancer	...	...	1.18
Death-rate from Phthisis	...	...	0.69
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	...	...	3.46
Number of women dying in consequence of child birth—			
From Sepsis	...	...	1
Other causes	...	...	2
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	1
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	8
Death-rate for England and Wales	...	...	12.4
Percentage of Total Deaths occurring in Public Institutions			42.5

II. ANALYSIS OF VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION—

The population returns since 1861 are given below :—

Year.	Population.	Inhabited houses	Average per house
1861	6,893	1,150	5.99
1871	14,359	2,519	5.66
1881	24,918	4,994	5.0
1891	30,011	5,121	5.86
1901	28,580	5,350	5.34
1911	31,544	6,102	5.16
1921	38,879	7,437	5.22
1931	40,619	8,534	4.63

The estimated population for the year 1937 was 43,140.

BIRTHS—

	Total.	Males.	Females.	
Legitimate ...	839	420	419	} Birth Rate (R.G.) 20.0
Illegitimate ...	27	12	15	
Birth-rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	14.8

The following table gives the number of births registered in the Borough, and indicates the wards in which they occurred :—

WARD.	Males.	Females.	Total.	No. of Births which were illegitimate.	Birth-rate per 1000 estimated population.
Farnworth	63	86	149	3	15.0
Halton	76	68	144	5	24.0
Simm's Cross .	94	76	170	5	19.2
Victoria	81	71	152	3	23.3
Waterloo	35	48	83	5	24.3
West Bank	32	28	60	3	18.4
Ditton	51	57	108	3	20.7
Whole Borough	432	434	866	27	20.0

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS—

The percentage of births, which were illegitimate, during each of the past 12 years is as follows :—

1926	...	3.0 per cent.	1932	...	3.2 per cent.
1927	...	3.2 per cent.	1933	...	2.0 per cent.
1928	...	2.3 per cent.	1934	...	3.0 per cent.
1929	...	3.2 per cent.	1935	...	2.9 per cent.
1930	...	3.7 per cent.	1936	...	2.5 per cent.
1931	...	2.1 per cent.	1937	...	3.1 per cent.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1937—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All Ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
All Causes—Certified ...	499	80	8	16	6	25	43	121	200
„ „ Uncertified	16	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid									
Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Influenza	18	—	—	—	—	—	2	11	5
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .	30	—	—	—	1	7	13	9	—
Other Tuberculous diseases	7	—	—	1	1	3	2	—	—
Syphilis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
General Paralysis of the Insane, tabes dorsalis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease	51	—	—	—	—	—	5	23	23
Diabetes	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	20
Heart Disease	128	—	—	1	1	3	5	30	88
Aneurysm	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Circulatory Diseases	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	12
Bronchitis	18	2	—	—	—	1	1	8	6
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	35	8	4	2	—	1	5	10	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	10	—	—	1	—	—	1	5	3
Peptic Ulcer	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
Diarrhoea, etc., under 2 years	8	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Other Digestive diseases Acute and Chronic	11	—	—	2	—	—	1	5	3
Nephritis	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Puerperal Sepsis	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Other Puerperal causes	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc. ...	57	57	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Senility	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21
Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Violence	22	—	—	3	1	7	2	2	7
Other Defined Diseases	28	5	3	4	1	1	3	5	6
Causes ill-defined or un- known	9	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	6
TOTALS	515	80	8	16	6	25	45	127	208

The following is a summary of the deaths of persons belonging to Widnes, which occurred in institutions during the year 1937 :—

Widnes Accident Hospital	...	...	...	8
,, Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	2
,, Maternity Home (Infants 4)	...	...	...	4
Liverpool Northern Hospital	...	...	...	2
,, Children's Infirmary (Infants 6)	...	...	...	10
,, Royal Infirmary	...	...	...	4
,, Southern Hospital (Infants 1)	...	...	...	3
,, Public Assistance Hospitals	...	...	...	—
,, Maternity Hospital (Infants 3)	...	...	...	4
,, Stanley	...	...	...	2
,, Cancer	...	...	...	—
,, Women's (Infants 1)	...	...	...	4
,, Eye and Ear	...	...	...	—
County Asylum	...	...	...	9
,, Sanatoria	...	...	...	9
Warrington Infirmary	...	...	...	—
Other Hospitals	...	...	...	16
Whiston Infirmary (Infants 20)	...	...	...	142
TOTAL	...	...	...	219

The following table summarises the Vital Statistics of the Borough :—

	Per 1,000 of Population.				Per 1,000 Births.	
	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Death Rate from Cancer	Maternal Mortality Rate.	Rate of Deaths under 1 year.
Mean of 5 years—						
1932-1936	19.9	11.9	0.71	1.24	3.82	70
Year—						
1936	20.3	12.9	0.49	1.25	7.76	89
1937	20.0	11.9	0.69	1.18	3.28	92
Increase or Decrease in 1936 on Five Years' Average 1931-1935	†0.1	nil	—0.02	—0.06	—0.54	†22
Previous Year	—0.3	—1.0	†0.20	—0.07	—4.48	†3

MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES—

The following table shows the distribution of deaths in the various Wards of the Borough :—

WARD.	Under 1	1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	over 65	Total
Farnworth ...	7	—	2	1	7	7	20	40	84
Halton	18	1	2	—	4	8	16	31	80
Simm's Cross	13	1	4	1	2	13	24	39	97
Victoria	19	3	3	—	5	5	24	28	87
Waterloo	8	2	3	3	2	3	19	27	67
West Bank ..	4	—	1	—	2	2	7	14	30
Ditton	11	1	1	1	3	7	17	29	70
TOTALS	80	8	16	6	25	45	127	208	515

INFANTILE MORTALITY—

The number of deaths during the year of children under 1 year of age was 80, which represents an infantile mortality rate of 92 per 1,000 births. The infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales during the year was 58 per 1,000 births.

The infant mortality rate has been comparatively high for the past two years. An examination of the statistics shows that—

- (a) 70 per cent of the deaths were due to Prematurity, congenital malformations, and debility.
- (b) 50 per cent of the deaths occurred under the age of 1 month.
- (c) 76 per cent of the deaths occurred under the age of 3 months.
- (d) 44 per cent of the deaths occurred in Institutions.

It is obvious that the high infant mortality rate is in no way due to causes which can be influenced by the post-natal supervision provided by the Local Authority. It is attributable to ante-natal factors. The increase in the number of infants who are born prematurely is surprising, particularly when regard is paid, not only to the close ante-natal supervision of expectant mothers, but also to the greater amount of milk which is supplied to them. It is indeed a problem. Investigation may, however, reveal casual agencies for which appropriate remedial measures can be adopted.

The Causes of Deaths of Infants during 1937 are recorded in the following table :—

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 4 Weeks.	4 Wks and under 3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Classes, Certified ...	26	6	5	5	42	10	10	7	6	75
„ „ Uncertified ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Bronchitis	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	—	1	—	—	1	1	2	3	1	8
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis and Diarrhœa ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	1	—	7
Digestive Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations .	4	2	1	—	7	1	1	—	—	9
Premature Birth	20	3	1	—	24	7	1	—	—	32
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	4	1	—	—	5	8	3	—	—	16
Other Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
TOTALS	28	8	3	1	40	21	12	6	1	80

The following table gives the Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births in the Wards of the Borough :—

Year.	Farnworth.	Halton.	Simms Cross.	Victoria.	Waterloo.	West Bank.	Ditton.	TOTAL.
1927	51	64	100	60	50	68	86	66
1928	36	99	61	111	82	91	70	78
1929	48	109	84	74	131	93	41	84
1930	42	37	77	57	63	59	54	55
1931	45	104	56	124	136	65	25	82
1932	44	76	56	91	168	53	35	74
1933	35	53	69	66	76	78	70	62
1934	75	44	62	78	49	26	54	59
1935	55	55	76	81	93	62	61	69
1936	64	88	69	114	156	98	54	89
Average								
1927-36	49	73	71	86	100	69	55	72
1937	53	125	76	125	96	66	102	92

DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS—

The number of deaths under 2 years of age from these diseases during the year was 8 as compared with 8 in 1936.

The Wards in which the deaths occurred are as follows :—

Farnworth	...	...	...	1	Waterloo	...	...	...	1
Halton	...	...	...	2	West Bank	...	...	...	0
Simm's Cross	...	...	...	2	Ditton	...	...	...	1
Victoria	...	...	...	1					

VITAL STATISTICS—WARDS IN THE BOROUGH—

	Farn- worth	Halton	Simms Cross	Vic- toria	Water- loo	West Bank	Ditton	Whole Boro'
Population	9920	6000	8830	6520	3410	3250	5210	43140
No. of Houses	2810	1572	2105	1351	712	794	1448	10792
Density of Population	6.0	6.4	24.0	23.6	14.4	19.0	2.2	6.7
Birth-rate per 1000 ...	15.0	24.0	19.2	23.3	24.3	18.4	20.7	20.0
Death-rate per 1000 ...	8.4	13.3	10.9	13.3	19.6	9.2	13.4	11.9
Infantile Death-rate per 1000 Births	46	131	76	125	96	66	101	92
Death-rate from Cancer	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.5	0.8	0.9	2.1	1.1
Death-rate from Diarrhœa per 1000 Births	6.7	13.8	11.7	6.5	12.0	0.0	9.2	9.2
Death-rate from Phthisis per 1000	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.4	0.2	0.7	0.69
Total Deaths	84	80	97	87	67	30	70	515
Total Births	149	144	170	152	83	60	108	866

(2) *PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME—*(a) *General—*

The general home nursing in the town is carried out by the Widnes Queen's Nursing Association. The staff, with headquarters at Highfield Road, consists of a matron and eleven nurses. They will attend any case at the request of a medical practitioner. They visit children after operation for tonsils and adenoids, and receive £50 per annum from the Education Authority for these services.

(b) *Infectious Diseases—*

Arrangements have been made by the Local Authority for the nurses of the District Nursing Association to undertake the nursing of children suffering from measles and whooping cough. For these services the Local Authority pays £50 per annum.

(3) *MIDWIFERY—*

Seven of the private midwives were appointed by the County Authority during the year under the Midwives' Act, and a midwife from another County Area was transferred to Widnes. Two midwives voluntarily retired so that at present there is only one midwife engaged in private practice. There are 6 midwives under the employ of the Queen's Nursing Association.

(4) *LABORATORY FACILITIES—*

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS: Arrangements have existed for some years for bacteriological examinations to be carried out at the laboratory of Messrs. Evans, Sons, Lescher and Webb, Crofton Lodge, Runcorn. The bulk of the specimens sent for examination are for the Diphtheria Bacillus. The examination of sputum for the Tubercle Bacillus is carried out by the Tuberculosis Officer.

No. of specimens examined in 1937 :—

Blood	...	...	...	1	Throat Swabs	...	773
Nasal	...	...	...	31	Others	...	16

(a) *Provided by the Local Authority—*

32
821

(5) *HOSPITALS—*

(a) The Isolation Hospital at Crow Wood has accommodation for 36 patients and consists of (1) a block containing two large wards, day rooms and nurses' room; (2) a block, comprising five wards; (3) two observation wards; (4) discharging block; (5) administrative block; and (6) laundry, mortuary and disinfecting station. There are extensive grounds in which convalescent patients can exercise.

The number of patients admitted during 1937 was 181 from the Borough and 62 from Whiston. The latter were admitted owing to a severe outbreak of Diphtheria in the Whiston Rural District. Arrangements for mutual assistance have been made with the Rural District Council for the treatment of cases during a severe epidemic.

Considerable improvements have been made at the Hospital during recent years. It may be necessary in the near future to instal cubicles in one of the blocks.

(b) A Small-pox Hospital has been erected at Barrow's Green, on the outskirts of the Borough. This is a wooden building, with brickwork foundation, and could accommodate eight patients. This Hospital was last used in 1902. It is not proposed to retain this hospital and the Local Authority will, therefore, make arrangements with one of the neighbouring authorities for the admission of cases of smallpox.

(c) Accident Hospital, St. Mary's Road, has accommodation for 22 patients. This Institution is utilised for the treatment of accidents and other surgical cases. Operations for Tonsils and Adenoids are performed at this Hospital under the Local Education Authority's medical service.

A summary of cases for 1937 :—

Patients in Hospital, December 31st, 1936 ...	7
Admitted during 1937	139
Out-Patients during 1937	1169
Re-visits, Out-Patients during 1937	6087
Operations	157
X-Ray Examinations	829
Deaths	8
Patients in Hospital, December 31st, 1937 ...	5

The cases treated in 1936 were; Admissions 149; out-patients 1295; and operations 98.

(6) *MATERNITY HOME*—

The Maternity Home is a modern institution, and has accommodation for ten patients. It is under the control of the Queen's Nurses' Association, and an agreement exists between the Association and the Local Authority respecting the admission of cases coming within the statutory obligations of the Corporation.

The total number of cases admitted to the Home during the year was 186.

(7) *AMBULANCE FACILITIES—*

The Local Authority has provided a motor ambulance for the removal of cases of Infectious Disease to Hospital.

A new motor ambulance was purchased during the year 1936 and is available, day and night, for use in cases of accidents or acute illness, necessitating the removal of patients to Hospitals within or without the Borough. The latter ambulance is kept at Mill Brow Centre (Tel. No. 2121). The ambulance which was formerly used for this work has been reconditioned and is available for any emergencies which may arise when the other ambulance is out of the Borough. With three ambulances the Borough is adequately equipped to deal with normal requirements.

The following table will not only indicate the amount of work done by the motor ambulance which is used for non-infectious cases, but will afford some idea of the number of residents who need to be conveyed to Institutions outside the Borough :—

NO. OF PATIENTS CARRIED.

HOSPITAL.	To 1929	From 1930	To 1931	From 1932	To 1933	From 1934	To 1935	From 1936	To 1937								
Northern, Liverpool ...	136	36	290	178	347	201	488	370	361	241	56	47	57	84	91	105	108
Royal, Liverpool ...	32	5	68	30	116	62	116	77	283	207	160	114	120	178	159	210	202
St. Paul's Eye, Liverpool ...	5	2	13	1	9	3	12	6	13	5	12	7	3	6	4	11	9
Liverpool Eye and Ear Infirmary ...	4	—	10	4	12	2	19	4	10	6	14	13	37	47	42	20	12
Southern, Liverpool ...	5	—	21	1	43	29	5	1	62	49	148	125	330	322	316	725	720
Women's Hospital, Liverpool ...	14	12	6	22	13	35	16	13	14	22	22	30	20	21	15	19	13
Children's Infirmary, Liverpool ...	31	6	23	7	26	15	52	12	43	18	41	26	47	62	48	56	56
Stanley Hospital, Liverpool ...	6	1	9	—	10	5	15	6	16	9	6	5	8	7	4	7	3
Children's Hospital, Heswall ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—
Liverpool Maternity Homes ...	3	3	8	2	22	8	11	2	22	6	18	5	21	13	4	45	17
Birkenhead General Hospital ...	1	1	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nursing Homes, Liverpool ...	6	1	6	2	5	5	8	5	11	4	5	2	11	14	6	7	4
Sanatoria, etc. ...	—	—	3	—	6	—	3	—	—	—	1	1	3	1	—	3	—
Warrington Infirmary ...	7	3	2	1	3	1	3	2	3	1	15	16	—	28	26	—	—
Prescot Union ...	7	2	7	5	—	6	5	—	2	—	2	4	2	1	5	2	7
St. Helens Hospitals ...	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Widnes Maternity Home ...	—	—	6	4	4	2	2	1	1	2	4	1	7	1	—	1	1
Widnes Accident Hospital—																	
(a) Accident Cases ...	57	19	38	15	48	14	64	27	54	22	134	87	206	149	91	225	196
(b) Operations ...	—	223	9	220	6	148	—	182	—	125	—	88	—	—	60	—	101
Other Hospitals ...	13	4	26	4	12	3	5	4	8	4	19	13	10	13	13	25	25
TOTALS ...	329	318	550	496	682	539	828	714	903	721	657	584	884	948	885	1462	1474

The mileage recorded during 1937 was 24,303 as compared with 10,916 in 1929, 15,812 in 1930, 23,951 in 1931, 26,830 in 1932, 28,108 in 1933, 26,650 in 1934, 25,445 in 1935, and 22,060 in 1936.

(8) *CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES—**(a) Maternity and Child Welfare—*

Consultations for Infants and Children as under :—

Town Hall	...	...	...	Mondays,	1-30 p.m.
Cooper Hall	...	...	...	Tuesdays,	1-30 p.m.
Halebank	...	...	...	Thursdays,	1-30 p.m.
Mill Brow	...	...	...	Thursdays,	2-30 p.m.

(b) School Clinics—

The above-mentioned Centres, with the exception of Halebank, are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., for the treatment of Infants and Children.

The Authority has now a staff of seven whole-time nurses. Each nurse carries out the combined duties of health visitor and school nurse in a defined area. The record of home visits paid during the year is :

To Expectant Mothers : First Visits ...	443	Total Visits ...	1335
Infants under 1 : ,, ,, ...	865	,, ,, ...	4541
Children 1 - 5 : — — —		,, ,, ...	5668

Every encouragement is given to mothers to bring their children to the Welfare Centres. During the year 1937, 15,328 attendances were made by children under one year of age, and 12,189 by children between the ages of 1 and 5 years.

An Ante-Natal Clinic was established in January, 1926, under the direction of Professor Briggs. He resigned after serving for twelve months, and Dr. J. Hayward Willett succeeded him as the Medical Officer. Dr. Willett served the Authority until he resigned in 1935, when Mr. P. Malpas was appointed to the position.

Until the year 1930 this clinic was held at the Mill Brow Centre, and the specialist attended fortnightly. It was decided during 1930 to transfer the clinic to the Town Hall, which is centrally situated and is easily accessible from all parts of the Borough. The change has been justified and there is no doubt that most of the specialised services together with a large part of the routine child welfare work should be carried out centrally. The attendances increased to such an extent that from 1st April, 1930, it was found necessary to provide for a weekly service.

The specialist voluntarily conducts an ante-natal clinic at the Maternity Home immediately he has finished his session at the Town Hall. The number of ante-natal cases which attended the clinics was 791, as compared with 725 during 1936. This represents 90% of the total births and affords an indication of the growing appreciation

of the clinics. The total attendances were 2,575, as compared with 2,621 during 1936.

It was found necessary to arrange for 49 cases to be admitted to the Liverpool Maternity Hospital during the year because of disabilities or defects discovered at the clinic. The number of cases admitted during 1936 was 27. In addition 24 cases were admitted to the Whiston County Hospital.

From its inception the work at the clinic has not been confined to ante-natal supervision. Patients suffering from disabilities which are the result of child birth, or from other diseases peculiar to women, are examined, and where necessary are admitted to the Women's Hospital, Liverpool, for operative treatment. 226 such cases were examined during the year 1937, and the total attendances of such cases were 435. The services of the specialist are also at the disposal of the medical practitioners for cases of difficult labour and puerperal disorders, and are being more frequently used. The scheme of the Local Authority for maternal welfare is therefore a very comprehensive one, and is fully appreciated by the doctors and midwives in the district.

A scheme for the examination and treatment of crippled children was put into operation in January, 1926. The Orthopædic surgeon visits Widnes fortnightly to direct the necessary treatment. Children requiring operative treatment are admitted to the Children's Infirmary at Liverpool, the country hospital at Heswall, or the Widnes Accident Hospital.

Particulars of the children under five years of age who were examined during the year are as follows :—

	1926-32	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Congenital Dislocation of Hip ...	2	—	—	—	1	—
„ Deformities of Arm ..	1	—	1	—	—	—
„ „ of fingers	3	—	2	—	—	—
„ „ of Feet ..	13	—	—	—	—	—
„ „ of Foot ..	19	—	—	1	2	3
Spinal Curvature	1	—	—	—	—	—
Paralysis of Arm and Leg ...	7	—	—	—	—	1
„ „ Arm	14	4	1	1	—	—
„ „ Legs	5	1	—	—	—	—
„ „ Leg	34	3	1	1	—	—
Deformities due to Rickets ...	40	3	1	2	2	—
Disease of Bone	11	1	1	2	—	—
Fractures	48	14	8	1	31	9
Flat Feet	22	3	2	3	8	4
Flat Foot	6	1	—	—	—	—
Rickets	98	18	7	14	4	5
Minor Deformities	25	8	5	5	9	5
Other Defects	106	26	21	23	29	9
Injuries to Joints	—	—	—	—	10	1
TOTAL ...	455	82	50	53	96	37

Five children were admitted to the Children's Infirmary during the year for operative treatment.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY—Brendon House—

This is provided by the County Authority, and the Tuberculosis Officer attends on Monday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and Friday afternoons.

The facilities at Brendon House are inadequate for the needs of the Tuberculosis Officer and his staff. New premises are now being erected in Chapel Street, and will be completed in 1938. Patients requiring X-Ray examination are obliged to attend the Dispensary at Seaforth and those in need of Sunlight treatment for tubercular glands travel to St. Helens.

IV. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY—

The water supply of the Borough is obtained by pumping from deep wells in the sandstone. The Borough possesses wells at Stockswell, Netherley and Belle Vale. The water was analysed by the County Analyst and by the Bacteriologist to the City of Liverpool during the year and found to be of excellent quality.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—

Nine privy middens were converted during the year. This important work was commenced in the year 1911, and the rate of progress is indicated in the following table :—

Year.	Farnworth.	Halton.	Simms Cross.	Victoria.	Waterloo.	West Bank.	Ditton.	TOTAL.
1911	70	18	116	26	7	18	—	255
1912	24	47	139	117	67	99	—	487
1913	15	95	35	172	182	308	—	807
1914	46	177	426	486	336	—	—	1471
1915	2	64	191	3	1	—	—	261
1916	19	11	18	4	—	—	—	52
1917	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1918	10	2	—	6	2	—	—	20
1919	13	7	—	—	—	—	—	20
1920	34	161	—	3	1	—	—	199
1921	41	10	—	—	—	—	26	77
1922	24	15	—	2	—	—	169	210
1923	2	—	—	—	—	—	154	156
1924	—	9	—	—	—	—	8	17
1925	3	44	—	4	—	—	31	82
1926	—	27	10	—	—	—	68	105
1927	5	5	—	—	—	—	13	23
1928	—	4	—	—	1	—	43	48
1929	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7
1930	1	28	—	—	—	—	2	31
1931	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1932	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	3
1933	—	5	—	—	—	—	2	7
1934	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
1935	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
1936	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
1937	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
TOTAL :	312	743	935	823	590	452	481	4357

The following table indicates as accurately as possible the number of the respective conveniences existing in the Borough at the end of 1937 :

	Farnworth.	Halton.	Simms Cross.	Victoria.	Waterloo.	West Bank.	Ditton.	TOTAL.
Privies ...	54	8	—	—	—	—	47	109
Fresh Water Closets	2258	1444	2040	1261	640	639	1401	9683
Waste Water Closets	498	120	65	90	72	155	—	1000

There were 293 fewer waste water closets at the end of the year than there were in December, 1936. This reduction has been brought about by :—

- (a) Voluntary conversion by owners at houses which were being reconditioned.
- (b) The demolition of waste water closets which existed at unfit houses.

Powers to secure the conversion of waste water closets were included in the Public Health Act of 1936, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1937. Application was made to the Ministry to borrow the requisite amount of money to secure the conversion of the remaining waste water closets in the Borough, and it is anticipated that the majority will be altered during the year 1938.

REFUSE REMOVAL—

This work is carried out entirely by the Highway Committee, and motor transport is mainly used.

The number of the respective receptacles for household refuse at the end of 1937 is approximately as follows :—

	Farnworth.	Halton.	Simms Cross.	Victoria.	Waterloo.	West Bank.	Ditton.	TOTAL.
Ashpits in association with privies	54	8	—	—	—	—	47	109
Dry Ashpits	13	1	—	—	—	—	37	51
Bins	2743	1563	2105	1351	712	794	1364	10632

Between the years 1913-1923 no fewer than 1615 dry ashpits were demolished and bins substituted. The remaining dry ashpits are in the rural portion of the district.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT—

A record of the work of the Sanitary Department is as follows :—

Defects or Nuisances : No. Discovered	...	1621
No. Abated	...	1592
No. of Notices served : Informal	...	661
Statutory	...	60
No. of Legal Proceedings taken	...	Nil.
No. of Premises visited	...	5625

Premises kept under observation.	Number of Premises.	Number of Inspections.
Workshops and Workplaces	93	186
Factories, sanitary accommodation	48	97
Bakehouses	34	85
Slaughterhouses	—	—
Milkshops	104	324
Cowsheds	25	75
Common Lodginghouses ...	5	30
Visits to premises where cases of Infectious diseases have occurred	—	324
No. of premises disinfected after cases of Infectious Diseases ...	224	—
No. of articles disinfected by steam disinfectors	10,982	—

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION—

The amount of total solids collected during 1937 was as follows :—

MONTH.	ISOLATION HOSPITAL. English tons per sq. mile	MOOR LANE. English tons per sq. mile
January	19.44	63.08
February	27.10	35.65
March	16.15	29.08
April	24.43	45.20
May	27.79	34.64
June	20.12	39.79
July	21.08	28.58
August	17.63	21.97
September	23.17	51.60
October	18.76	63.15
November	13.35	32.91
December	23.37	38.77

V.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY—

The number of Purveyors of Milk on the register is 104. The dairies and milkshops were regularly inspected and no infringements of regulations were found. The delivery of milk in bottles is slowly extending. There is comparatively little Grade 'A' milk used, largely owing to its price. One dealer's licence for the bottling of T.T. milk, one for the distribution of T.T. milk and one for the distribution of Pasteurised milk, were issued. There are 25 dairy farms in the Borough, most of which are in good order. The Authority has appointed Mr. P. T. Lindsay as its veterinary officer, and he inspected during the year 339 cows on four occasions. As a result of his inspections, five cows were found to be suffering from tuberculosis. Bacteriological examinations of milk samples taken during the year revealed the presence of tubercle bacilli in three of them.

(b) MEAT—

It is the policy of the Local Authority to inspect all slaughterhouses under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924. The number of animals inspected during the year was :—

Pigs	447
------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

The amount condemned as unfit for human consumption was :—
1 whole carcase (with tuberculosis) weighing 120 lbs. This was removed to the Destructor for incineration.

There are no licensed slaughterhouses, and all the beef and mutton which is sold in the Borough is imported from outside. The slaughtering of animals is now confined to pigs and this is carried out on the premises of the respective owners. The facilities for slaughter cannot be considered as satisfactory, and the provision of a public slaughter-house must be regarded as one of the public health requirements.

(c) OTHER FOODSTUFFS—

Other food condemned during the year comprised 27 boxes and barrels of apples; 15 boxes of grapes; 16 boxes of tomatoes; 2 boxes of cherries; 4 boxes of plums; and one box of pears.

There are 34 bakehouses in the Borough. They were inspected during the year and were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

The number of samples taken during the year under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, and Milk and Cream Regulations was :—

Milk	...	...	...	...	33
Prosecutions	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	57
Prosecutions	...	...	...	...	Nil

VI. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

(i) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR—

DISEASE.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	87	87	2
Scarlet Fever	74	70	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	12	12	1
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Pneumonia	97	—	35
Erysipelas	18	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	2	—
Enteric Fever	1	1	—
Tuberculosis—			
(a) Pulmonary ... { M 26		—	15
F 18		—	15
Total ... 44		—	30
(b) Non-Pulmonary { M 15		—	2
F 20		—	5
Total ... 35		—	7

(ii) ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS—

CASES NOTIFIED.													
DISEASE.	Total Cases at all Ages.	Years.											
		Under 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and over.
Diphtheria	87	—	—	3	2	12	50	19	1	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	74	—	4	6	10	10	29	4	5	4	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia...	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	1	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	97	2	3	6	1	7	10	2	10	14	10	29	3
Erysipelas	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	9	3
Ophthalmia	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary T.B. M.	26	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	6	9	6	1
F.	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	6	2	5	—
Non-Pulmonary M.	15	1	—	—	3	1	3	3	2	1	1	—	—
Tuberculosis F.	20	1	—	2	—	—	6	3	1	3	2	2	—
TOTALS	370	7	7	17	16	30	99	33	27	47	29	51	7

(iii) *WARD DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—*

Return of Infectious Diseases notified, shown in the various Wards in which they occurred, during the year 1937 :—

DISEASE.	Farnworth.	Halton.	Simms Cross.	Victoria.	Waterloo.	West Bank.	Ditton.	TOTALS.
Diphtheria and Membraneous Croup ...	13	5	40	8	5	8	8	87
Erysipelas	3	3	—	2	5	3	2	18
Scarlet Fever	24	9	13	11	—	11	6	74
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	1	2	3	2	2	2	12
Ophthalmia	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	3
Pneumonia	18	17	20	19	13	9	1	97
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—								
Phthisis	5	5	8	8	11	5	2	44
Other Forms	12	7	4	5	3	2	2	35
TOTALS	75	48	87	57	39	41	23	370

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified during 1936 was 91.

The number of cases of Diphtheria notified during the preceding four years was—1933 and 1934, 114; 1935, 96; and 1936, 110.

ANTI-TOXIN: An ample supply of Diphtheria anti-toxin is kept at the Isolation Hospital and Town Hall, while Scarlet Fever anti-toxin is always available at the Isolation Hospital for use in severe cases. The amount used during the year was:

Diphtheria anti-toxin— 30 phials of 60,000 units.

36 „ 40,000 „

72 „ 20,000 „

72 „ 8,000 „

24 „ 4,000 „

Scarlet Fever anti-toxin—39 therapeutic doses.

Fewer cases of suspected diphtheria are now being admitted to hospital, as the medical practitioners are availing themselves of the facilities provided for the bacteriological examination of throat swabs.

DISINFECTION: A Steam Disinfector is stationed at the Isolation Hospital for the disinfection of bedding, etc. 3,688 articles were disinfected after the occurrence of infectious disease; also after the removal of tuberculosis patients to Sanatoria or where death had

taken place from Phthisis. The number of houses disinfected during the year was 346. The number of articles disinfected belonging to persons who were rehoused was 7,294.

PUERPERAL FEVER AND PUERPERAL PYREXIA : Twelve cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year. Expert advice is available for patients suffering from these diseases, and arrangements have been made for those requiring hospital treatment to be admitted to the Whiston Infirmary. All the cases were sent for admission during the year, and eleven were successfully treated.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM : Cases of Ophthalmia requiring special treatment are admitted to St. Paul's Eye Hospital, Liverpool. Three cases were notified during the year, two of which were admitted to hospital. No injury to vision resulted among any of the cases.

TUBERCULOSIS : The number of cases of Tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease during 1937 will be found in the following table :—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0-1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	1
5-10	1	—	3	6	—	—	—	1
10-15	1	1	3	3	—	1	—	—
15-20	2	4	2	1	1	2	1	—
20-25	2	1	—	3	1	3	—	2
25-35	4	5	1	—	3	3	1	1
35-45	9	2	1	2	5	2	—	—
45-55	4	4	—	1	1	4	—	—
55-65	2	1	—	1	4	—	—	—
65 - upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	26	18	15	20	15	15	2	5
	44		35		30		7	

HOUSING STATISTICS.

NO. OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR—

- (a) Total (including numbers given separately under b) ... 544
- (i) By the local authority ... 132
- (ii) By other bodies or persons ... 412
- (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—
- (i) By the local authority ... 132

UNFIT DWELLINGHOUSES—

(a) Inspection—

(i) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1062
(ii) Number of inspections made for the purpose	2356
(iii) Number of dwellinghouses which were inspected under the Housing Regulations, 1925	327
(iv) Number of inspections for the purpose	582
(v) Number of houses found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	84

(b) Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices—

(i) Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	127
---	-----

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(i) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	7
(ii) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (made in 1936)	14
(iii) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which proposals to make fit were accepted	3

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
---	---

It will be seen that 412 houses were built by private enterprise as compared with 462 in 1936. It is a matter for regret that a large number of them only contain two bedrooms. The Borough already possesses too many houses of this type.

The census taken in 1935 revealed that 882 families were overcrowded. An investigation has been carried out in order to ascertain as accurately as possible the present state of overcrowding. It has been found out that to-day the number of overcrowded families is reduced to 532. This reduction has been brought about by the erection of a large number of houses by private enterprise which have become tenanted by small families living in apartments, the letting of vacant Corporation houses to overcrowded families, and the co-operation of landlords in transferring families from small to larger houses in their possession. When the 100 houses on Lowerhouse Lane, and the 60

at Halebank are completed, 106 overcrowded families, living either in unfit houses or in the re-housing estates, will be satisfactorily housed, and the number of overcrowded families in the Borough will be reduced to 426. The majority of these families are so large that there are no houses in the Borough of adequate size to accommodate them. The overcrowding can, therefore, only be relieved by the erection of houses by the Local Authority.

The following areas were represented during the year :—

Dock Street	containing	15 houses.
Lugsdale Road	„	4 „
Back Mersey View	„	10 „
Foundry Lane	„	19 „
Halebank Road	„	9 „

Twenty-two individual houses were represented during the year. Demolition orders were made with respect to 7, proposals to render fit were agreed to with respect to 3, and undertakings not to use for habitation were accepted with respect to the remainder. One closing order was made with respect to part of a building.

132 houses on the Lugsdale Road and Lacey Street sites were completed and occupied during the year. A tender for the building of 100 houses on the Lowerhouse Lane site was accepted and the necessary streets were made. The majority of these houses are of a large type and will be available for the overcrowded families on the re-housing estates, and for the large families which still occupy houses which have been condemned. The provision of these houses will secure the rehousing of all families in conformity with the standard required by the Housing Act. A piece of land was purchased at Halebank on which it is proposed to erect 60 houses. These houses are required to re-house families living in houses in that district which are regarded as unfit. The rehousing proposals of the Local Authority with respect to Slum Clearance will then be completed.

Seven areas comprising 78 houses were cleared during the year, and 14 individual houses were demolished. During the previous year, 25 areas comprising 129 houses were cleared and 12 individual houses were demolished.

Eradication of Bed Bugs :—

15 houses belonging to the Local Authority, and 63 private houses, were either sprayed or fumigated during the year because of verminous infestation.

VIII. FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

In compliance with Section 132, I have to report on inspections under the above Act and also send a copy of the report to the Secretary of State.

A Register is kept of all factories and workshops, and from the tabulated statement it will be seen that there are 93 registered workshops in the Borough, including 34 bakehouses. There are no underground bakehouses.

(i). INSPECTION.

Including Inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors :

Premises.	Inspections.	Number of		Prosecutions.	
		Written Notices.			
Factories	96	...	14	...	Nil.
Workshops	94	...	21	...	Nil.
Workplaces	92	...	19	...	Nil.
TOTAL	282	...	54	...	Nil.

(ii). DEFECTS FOUND.

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—

Particulars.	Number of Defects.	
	Found.	Remedied.
Want of cleanliness	41	41
Want of ventilation	1	1
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	1	1
Defective sanitary accommodation	11	11
Total	54	54

(iii). REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.

Confectioners	26
Bakehouses	34
Dressmakers	5
Millinery	7
Laundries	3
Tailors	4
Others	14
Total number of Workshops on Register	93

